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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

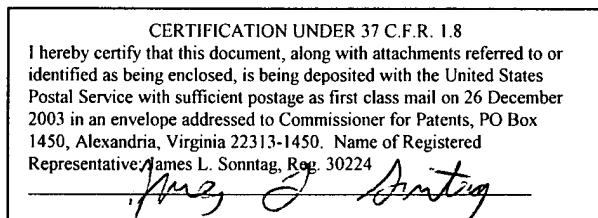
United States Patent Application

To: Commissioner for Patents
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Application Number: 09/830399
Confirmation Number: 7802
Filing Date: August 13, 2001
Applicant(s): VIRKAR, Anil Vasudeo;
BHIDE, Sanjeevani Vidyadhar
Group Art Unit: 1754
Examiner: BOS, Steven J.
Attorney's Docket Number: U2726US
Title: ... "A MOLECULAR DECOMPOSITION

PROCESS FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF
NANOSIZE CERAMIC POWDERS"



AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Introductory Comments

This is in response to the office action mailed August 26, 2003. A shortened statutory period for response was set to expire three months from the mailing date of the office action. Enclosed herewith is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a). Claims 1-25 are pending in the application before this amendment. Claims 2, 4-7, 10-13 and 21-25 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1,3,8 and 14 and have been rejected. Claims 9 and 15-20 have been objected to.

Please amend the application as set forth below: